

**REMARKS**

The claims previously in the case have been replaced by a set of new claims that are believed to be proper as to form and clearly patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration is accordingly respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over EP 0 897 174 in view EP 0 911 803, or further in view of JP 10-128778.

The present invention seeks to provide a layer with structural properties, constituted by pre-impregnated filaments emplaced by draping, winding or wrapping, and having an open surface in the layer of the order of 30% of the total surface of the exposed surface, the layer with structural properties thus being the first to be emplaced on the mold.

This characteristic is carried out according to the present invention and in a first manner as set forth in claim 9, by using filaments whose spacing, produced either by draping, winding or wrapping, it is predetermined so as to obtain the quantity of open surface of the order of 30% of the total surface of the exposed layer.

This characteristic is carried out according to a second embodiment (claim 10) by polymerizing in an autoclave the impregnation resin of the filaments, then by piercing the layer thus solidified, the layer remaining in place on the mold, the other components of the panel then being emplaced as in claim 9

(see the details of the process set forth on page 13, lines 1-24 and the following page of the specification).

EP 0 897 174 does not disclose the emplacement in the first instance on the mold of a layer of structural reinforcement formed by filaments pre-impregnated with resin. Similarly, this document does not disclose the provision in the layer of structural reinforcement (14), of a layer with an open surface of 30% of the total surface, by a suitable spacing between the filaments. The reference speaks only of wound filaments whose density can be adjusted as a function of the desired quantity of opening (column 5, lines 37, 38).

EP 0 911 803 (which corresponds to US 6,176,964) is dealt with in the preamble of the present application (page 6, line 21 to page 8, line 5).

Thus, it should at first be noted that in the panel according to EP 0 911 803 (Figure 2) the exposed layer is a layer of structural reinforcement formed by a pierced metallic sheet (16) covering the layer (18) with acoustical properties, whilst in the present application, the structural reinforcing layer (for example 1a) covering the layer with acoustical properties (for example 1b) is formed by filaments pre-impregnated with resin.

The technique disclosed in EP 0 911 803 has the major drawback comprising production from the metallic sheet 16 and its piercing before its emplacement and shaping on the other

components (15, 14, 12) of the panel, then assembled. The passages at page 7, line 15 to page 8, line 2 of the specification of the present application emphasize the drawbacks of such a production method, due to the requirement of locally deforming the sheet 16 to give it the suitable convexity or concavity, which modifies the area of the holes and hence the total quantity of porosity of the sheet 16.

Such a shaping is moreover difficult because the sheet 16 is rigid.

Moreover, the sheet 16 being metallic, the risk of corrosion arises.

Thus, neither of the European references, and hence the combination of the European references, has anything fundamentally to do with the present invention; and the tertiary reference comprising JP 10-128778 does not improve the combination as to these fundamental drawbacks.

As the claims now in the case clearly bring out these distinctions with ample particularity, it is believed that they are all patentable, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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